

Ms. Nina King, editor
Book World
Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

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Frederick, Md. 21702
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Dear Ms. King,

Of several² dubious statements by Tad² Schulz⁴ in his lead review of Beschloss' "The Crisis Years" I address two: "it cannot be excluded that the president had himself tacitly authorized attempts to assassinate Castro" and, with regard to the solution to the Cuba missile crisis, "the Russian leader gained absolutely nothing from his Cuban gamble inasmuch as Kennedy's pledge as part of their deal not to invade Cuba was never formalized" the second including a misrepresentation of that "deal".

Producing not a scintilla of evidence the CIA and its apologists want it believed that John and Robert Kennedy were involved in the CIA's efforts to assassinate Castro. With regard to the best-known of those many efforts in which the CIA involved several leading mafia figures I enclose some of what the CIA has disclosed to me. It states that knowledge was restricted to the Agency and to only six high officials of it. (The handwritten notes are mine.)

The actual and published solution to that crisis was more than that the U.S. would not invade Cuba. The U.S. guaranteed Cuba against any invasion.

Once the U.S. made public this offer, actually an amplification of Khrushchev's initial demand, and the USSR accepted it, whether or not it was ever "formalized" is entirely immaterial. The fact is that since then, three decades, Cuba has not been invaded and the USSR did not have to implement its "mutual security" agreement with Cuba.

"The Russian leader" and much more, the entire world, did "gain" very much - peace when terrible war impended.

For Schulz², who is well informed on these matters, to write like this makes me wonder again why when he knew E. Howard Hunt so well and knew his assumed identity was under the name "Eduardo"^{he} wrote that Eduardo was Bernard Barker, in his Watergate reporting.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg
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